

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EAGR, UR

SUBJ: POLANSKIY REPLACED BY MESYATS AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

1. FRONT PAGE OF PRAVDA MARCH 17 CARRIES TWO BRIEF DECREES OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET DATED MARCH 16 ANNOUNCING THAT VALENTIN KARPOVICH MESYATS HAS BEEN APPOINTED USSR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THAT POLYANSKIY HAS BEEN "FREED" FROM HIS DUTIES AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE "IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSFER TO OTHER WORK."

2. ONLY BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND ON MESYATS AT OUR DISPOSAL IS IN DEPUTY VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA SSR, 1974 EDITION. A RUSSIAN, BORN IN 1928 AND A GRADUATE OF THE TIMIRYAZEV AGRICULTURAL ACADEMY, MESYATS HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL-RELATED PARTY AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. HIS EARLY EXPERIENCE WAS AS AGRONOMIST AND DIRECTOR OF MTS. HE THEN HAD STINTS IN MOSCOW OBLAST' AS CHIEF OF SOVKHOZ ADMINISTRATION, CHIEF OF SECTION IN THE MOSCOW OBKOM, FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF OBLISPOLKOM,

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AND SECRETARY OF MOSCOW OBKOM. DURING 1965-71 HE WAS

RSFSR FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. HE WAS THEN NAMED SECOND SECRETARY OF THE KAZAKH CP (UNDER BREZHNEV LOYALIST KUNAYEV). MESYATS HAS BEEN A FULL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER SINCE 1971.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.
STOESSEL

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